Dear Paul,

9/4/76

Last night there was a call from a friend with NBC News. It is an update on the ABC/Mann/Lane-Freed et al operation, with increasing indications it is the typical Lane-Freed thievery, whether of not the Mann s or ABC's knowledge.

Mann and Lane are together and represent that they have just returned from Atlanta with this big scoop about the FBI and Memphis police and the judge and all my work. NBC is to carry an item tonight and Anderson tomorrow.

I believe I send you a carbon of my letter to Mann.

It required a week from postmark for Jim's last letter to reach me today. He will probably be back toward the end of next week but this is not certain. This will have to bene of the last things I'll worry him about but in time we'll have to discuss this. He does report a good recovery.

There can be no innocence in this because there can be no research for a work of non-fiction that does not disclose me and my work. None of them have been in touch at any level. Perhaps ABC is innocent. I don t know. I know that lack of knowledge will not remove any liability that might be provable. Lane and Freed will have to change their stripes to red, white and blue and deodorize themselves for there not to be a case.

Some time ago I asked that you speak to Vane's son to get word to Vane about what is up in ABC's name and with its money. I have not heard. If you can t do this please let me know. I was thinking about this last night. It then appeared to me that at the very least I'll have to serve notice on ABC's legal people in New York. I don t want to to this without need or in any way that might reflect on Vane if that is his department.

If you read my letter to Mann you may have noticed a reference to law other than plagiarism. This is the opinion given Jim by a New York lawyer whose firm specializes in publishing law. Whatever the citations are, Jim has them. This was in connection with another overt matter of this nature.

I won t be writing any letters unless I happen to catch the NBC coverage tonight and it is that bad. (The black they are using is the District of Columbia's non-voting Member of Congress , Rev. Fauntroy, a friend of King's. Years ago I could never get through to him and I never got a callback. I guess they are all the same.

They are using this in a futility and enticing Blacks to support it. They are changing the stalled Downing resolution to include King in an effort to get it out of the House Rules committee when there is no possibility of any action in this session and the entire matter will have to be done all over again, with all the liabilities that can accrue to this, in the coming session. (The House is not a continuing body.) I know this is the pitch they've been making to Anderson. Some of his people who have bought it have discussed it with me.

Before I return to work two little stories you may find entertaining. There was a continuing problem with the mower most of which you gave me. The local store has been rather good about it but unsuccessful. About three weeks ago during one of its spells of refusing to shift it dod come out of gear on a hill and the brakes did not work. I was lucky. I backed into a bush rather than rolling all the way down the hill that gets so steep and rough. I raised hell. They contacted the factory and its rep came here and confirmed gear and brake trouble. They took it for repairs. This time I was foresighted. I asked suppose it it not done when I have to mow again? They agreed to mow. They just finished. What a pleasant surprise! And there were metal gratings in the gears. But the new brake lining has not yet come.

I worked for six hours straight this a.m. then went to see if a neighbor might be going near the post office so I could let the court know of Jim's delay. As I returned I recognized the farm-type station wagon driving in my lane. It belongs to the lady who was the friend of McDonald's extra villain, Kimsey. She was loaded with fresh fruit and vegetables. hope the credit Bill saw the other night is a promotion. Best,